

and colleague, Senator COLLINS, has already said. Let me be clear. She pointed out the virtual unanimous support this legislation has from members of the Intelligence Committee—both sides. Let there be no mistake in terms of who was the relentless driver—some might even say “persistent-beyond-belief driver” of this issue. It was SUSAN COLLINS, and, once again, her service shows that she is standing up for America’s diplomats and the intel community serving our country around the world who, as Senator COLLINS already indicated, have been involved in dangerous incidents resulting in brain trauma and other unexplained illnesses. We have called it the Havana syndrome.

The remarkable thing is that for nearly 5 years, we have been aware of these reports, and we have seen, as the Senator mentioned, attacks on U.S. personnel in Cuba, in China, and around the world. We have these reports here in this country, and rather than disappearing or going down in number, they actually appear to be increasing.

Five years after the start of this effort, we don’t know what happened, we don’t know who did it, and we don’t know what kind of device was used.

This is wrong. Particularly, I want to point out—this is an area where, again, we were in bipartisan agreement—that under the last administration, we just didn’t treat these victims from the intel community, the State Department, and DOD with the seriousness they deserved.

As chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, I know the hardships, sacrifices, and risks our intelligence officers, diplomats, and other personnel serving overseas endure—often anonymously, often without recognition.

The fact that some of these brave women and men have been subjected to these serious health issues by unknown attackers is unacceptable. That their own government did not believe them when they were injured or denied them proper medical attention and care is beyond the pale. These are folks who were injured while serving our government and, in some cases, facing lifelong health consequences, and, for a while, we just got blown off. It is inexcusable that they were treated this way, and it is outrageous that we still don’t know who did it or what tool was used in these attacks.

Their country, after their service, needs to have their backs. With Senator COLLINS’s legislation—now that it has passed the Senate, and our hope is that it will soon pass the House—we will show that the country will have their backs.

I also want to give credit to the new CIA Director, Ambassador Burns, for making this a top priority. On the Senate Intelligence Committee, there is complete bipartisan unanimity on this issue. We are going to ensure that the United States gets to the bottom of

this, identifies those responsible for those attacks on American personnel, holds them accountable, and ensures that these attacks on American personnel stop once and for all.

Let me echo what Senator COLLINS said. This should be one in an ever growing list of topics that President Biden ought to raise with President Putin.

We must protect our people around the globe. At the same time, it is more important than ever that the United States also provides those affected by these attacks with the medical and financial support they deserve. Again, that is why Senator COLLINS’ legislation, the HAVANA Act, is so important.

Let me echo again what Senator COLLINS said. My partner in this, as well, has been Vice Chairman RUBIO, and our good friend Senator SHAHEEN. The fact that this passed this quickly, unanimously, is extraordinarily important, but it is just the first step in having the backs of our diplomats, our intel personnel, our DOD, and, for that matter, anyone who has been a victim of this kind of activity. Again, I want to thank Senator COLLINS for her leadership on this issue. I can assure you, as Senator COLLINS said and Senator RUBIO and I have repeated a number of number of times, the Intelligence Committee of the Senate is going to get to the bottom of this. We are going to make sure—and we have taken a giant step on this by passing this legislation—that the personnel will get the medical and, if necessary, financial assistance they need; that we are going to find out who did it, we are going to find out what type of device, and we are going to hold them accountable.

With that, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

SEMICONDUCTORS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we all know, in recent years, China has emerged as one of the greatest competitors to the world order. Unfortunately, they don’t play by the same rules that the rest of the international community plays by. The Chinese Communist Party is increasingly aggressive and well-resourced and has made no secret of its intent to gain more influence and power.

For everything from national security to economic policy, there is a clear and urgent need to reorient the way our country views and responds to the challenge from China. I am glad the Senate is taking up an important step today through the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act. The cornerstone of this legislation, of course, is funding to bolster domestic semiconductor manufacturing so the United States can compete with China and secure some of our most critical supply chains.

Nearly 90 percent of the semiconductors made in the world are made by countries in Asia, with Taiwan dominating the market with about 63 percent of that total of 90 percent. In fact,

one company, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, accounted for more than half of the total foundry revenues last year. As I said, companies in Taiwan control 63 percent of the advanced semiconductor markets.

If for any reason that supply chain was cut off, it would lead to very serious consequences across our entire economy. To address this, Senator WARNER, the senior Senator from Virginia, and I introduced the CHIPS for America Act last year to shore up domestic semiconductor manufacturing and reduce our alliance on other countries for one of our most critical products. Semiconductors go into everything with an off and on switch.

The United States is not the only country that spotted this blinking red light, this danger signal. Other countries have recognized the immense risks that exist, and they are also pouring billions of dollars into new foundries. The European Union, for example, is investing up to \$35 billion, South Korea is investing \$65 billion, and China is investing a whopping \$150 billion in semiconductor manufacturing. Our competitors are pouring tens of billions of dollars into boosting their own supplies of these essential semiconductors, and the United States needs to keep up and compete.

The vast majority of our colleagues agree that this was an important and critical task. It was carefully crafted in monthslong, bipartisan, bicameral negotiations, and, in fact, this legislation was adopted as an amendment to last year’s Defense Authorization Act by a vote of 96 to 4. Now, though, it falls to us to fund what we authorized in the Defense authorization bill, and there is just one issue standing in the way.

During committee consideration of the Endless Frontier Act, an amendment was adopted that would apply controversial and unnecessary prevailing wage language to the CHIPS for America Act. The prevailing wage provision creates an obstacle to our funding the CHIPS for America Act, and it confers zero benefit on anybody because the manufacturing of semiconductors is a very sophisticated, well-paying business.

Considering the current wages of U.S. semiconductor manufacturing companies, there is zero impact on workers’ wages by requiring companies to pay an elevated, so-called prevailing wage. So it is really a nonissue. However, these Davis-Bacon provisions also represent an unprecedented expansion of a partisan labor policy, and applying them to private construction projects, as I said, sets a troublesome precedent.

Leaving this language in the bill has the potential to dramatically weaken support for this essential broader legislation, and I hope we can all agree that the stakes are simply too high to let that happen. I have introduced an amendment to strike this unnecessary and divisive provision and to maintain the strong bipartisan support that the

CHIPS for America Act has earned so far. This partisan provision has no impact on workers' wages, and it should hardly be a reason to forfeit the strong bipartisan support the CHIPS Program has previously received.

It is important that we send a clear and distinct and unequivocal message to our competitors and rivals in China. Republicans and Democrats have worked together to bolster domestic semiconductor manufacturing and to confront one of our biggest looming threats from China. Now is not the time to sacrifice the progress we made.

I encourage our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment so we can maintain the strong bipartisan support for this essential program.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, in January of 2020, when reports began to circulate about the coronavirus, I instructed my oversight and investigations staff to get a classified briefing from the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of National Security. Around that same time, I publicly said that there were signs that the virus could develop into a worldwide threat. I also noted at that time my concern that China may not be accurately reflecting the scale or scope of the problem and that China was failing to share information with global health organizations. Unfortunately, my concerns proved to be true.

From the beginning, my goal has been to ensure a robust Federal response to the threat and to better understand the origins of the virus.

Today, as we emerge from the pandemic, the focus has rightly shifted to understanding how the virus originated. We lost over 500,000 of our fellow Americans, and this body has spent trillions of dollars to support the U.S. economy during the pandemic.

We the people have an absolute right to know everything that the U.S. Government knows about the origins of the coronavirus. On March 8, 2021, I wrote to the Director of National Intelligence and the Secretary of Health and Human Services requesting all intelligence, among other requests, relating to what the government knows about the origin of the coronavirus. I received some intelligence product, and that product causes very serious concern and further supports my belief that the ongoing review of its origin can't leave any stone unturned. The effort must be a whole-of-government approach.

In response to my letter, the National Institutes of Health, an Agency within the Department of Health and Human Services, stated that it hasn't funded gain-of-function research on the coronavirus. Recent reports have cast doubts on that position.

Dr. Fauci's unit provided \$3.4 million in taxpayer grants to a research orga-

nization called EcoHealth Alliance. That group then issued subgrants to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. It has been reported that from this \$3.4 million, somewhere between \$600,000 and \$826,000 was sent to the Wuhan Institute of Virology. That money, by the way, is U.S. taxpayer money. It was spent on researching bat coronaviruses.

As the Wall Street Journal noted last week, it is likely that the Wuhan Institute of Virology was doing gain-of-function research. If true, that research could have strengthened the virus to the version that caused the global pandemic.

Dr. Fauci has said that Chinese scientists are trustworthy, that "we generally always trust the grantee to do what they say," and that "I can't guarantee that a grantee hasn't lied to us because you never know." He also said, "I can't guarantee everything that is going on in the Wuhan lab, we can't do that." What complete nonsense and a mess that it is.

Well, Dr. Fauci, why can't you know what is going on inside the Wuhan plant if you are going to send taxpayers' money to do it? For crying out loud, be aggressive and be accountable.

We know the Chinese Government can't be trusted. We know the Chinese Government is involved in risky and deadly viral research. We know that sending money to any entity affiliated with the Chinese Government is a risky proposition, which is why any sign of any taxpayer money sent to the Chinese Government should be subject to the most rigorous and comprehensive oversight.

If Dr. Fauci and his team know that taxpayer money is going to the Chinese Government, what steps did he and they take to oversee how that money was used? Well, that question is exactly what I asked in my March 8, 2021, letter to the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS failed to answer what, if any, oversight was done.

In my followup letter to the Department of Health and Human Services on May 26 of this year, I stated the following:

Your letter failed to describe the steps the Department of Health and Human Services took to oversee the research done at the Wuhan Institute of Virology in light of it being funded by the taxpayer.

The taxpayers expect the Federal Government to, at a minimum, know what their money is buying.

Congress expects the Federal Government to perform aggressive oversight, especially when the funded research involves highly infectious and deadly viruses. Furthermore, if no oversight were performed, then that would call into question the government's confidence that no gain-of-function research was supported by taxpayers' dollars, because that is what I was told by the HHS.

The people have a right to know what the government knows about the origins of the coronavirus. The people have a right to know if Dr. Fauci and

other government officials were derelict in their duty to conduct oversight of the money that they knew would end up with the Communist Chinese Government.

Dr. Fauci is constantly going on television to talk about anything that he wants to talk about. He should start talking about what, if any, oversight he did with respect to the taxpayers' money that he knew was going to the Communist Chinese Government.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the vote starts.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 3 minutes of debate, equally divided, between the votes today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I come to the floor, hopefully today will be the day we wrap up debate on the America Competes-Endless Frontier legislation now known as the USICA, United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021. We come to talk about this now, primarily because we know that the research dollars invested today are going to decide the jobs of the future. And we know that we all believe a significant increase in the investment in research and development dollars will help us spur innovation, continue to help us compete, and continue to be competitive in key sectors of our economy that are so important to us.

We know that we have been having this debate literally now for more than a decade, starting with President Bush's 2006 report saying America needed to invest more in the National Science Foundation. And at the time, I am pretty sure we thought we were in a track meet where our competitor was maybe half a lap behind us.

I am pretty sure now, as the decade has moved on, we are looking over our shoulder and realizing that the competition is gaining. So we need to make this investment in research and development to stay competitive, to grow jobs for tomorrow, and solve some of our most pressing problems, whether that is climate change, national security on cyber issues, or the advent and usage of artificial intelligence and what that will mean both for our opportunities and for our challenges.

So we are making a renewed commitment to the National Science Foundation. I thank my colleagues again, Senator SCHUMER and Senator YOUNG, for